

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DLOS-09 EB-08 COME-00

DOT-00 FMC-01 /104 W

-----129215 071459Z /53

R 070955Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6206

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 1090

CASABLANCA FOR REGIONAL FISHERIES OFFICER

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIS, MZ, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET-MOZAMBIQUE FISHING AGREEMENT

1. ARTICLE IN AUGUST 27 "NOTICIAS" REPORTED SIGNING OF AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOZAMBIQUE AND THE SOVIET UNION, WHICH AUTHORIZES TWO LARGE SOVIET FISHING TRAWLERS TO FISH IN MOZAMBIQUE TERRITORIAL WATERS. THEY WOULD BE THE ONLY LARGE FOREIGN SHIPS WITH THIS STATUS. UNDER THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT, SOVIET TRAWLERS WILL BE USED TO TRAIN MOZAMBICAN FISHING CREWS AND TO PROVIDE MOZAMBIQUE WITH MOST OF ITS DOMESTIC FISH NEEDS. EACH OF THE TWO TRAWLERS (OF THE "TROPIC" CLASS) CAN HANDLE 20 TONS OF FISH PER DAY AND ARE EXPECTED TO CATCH TEN THOUSAND TONS OF FISH ANNUALLY.

2. THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT WILL COMPENSATE THE SOVIETS

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FOR THE USE OF THE FISHING VESSELS IN ONE OF TWO WAYS: EITHER THE GOVERNMENT WILL RECEIVE 10-15 PERCENT (DEPENDENT ON TYPE OF FISH) OF THE CATCH OUTRIGHT, OR MOZAMBIQUE'S NEW NATIONAL MARINE PRODUCTS ENTERPRISE WILL BE GIVEN THE RIGHT TO BUY THE MAJORITY OF THE CATCH (PRESUMABLY AT A FAVORABLE PRICE).

3. THE RECENT AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTS A COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED IN FEBRUARY 1976, AT THE TIME OF A VISIT BY THE MOZAMBIQUE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE, MARIO MACHUNGO, TO MOSCOW. THE AGREEMENT ALSO CALLS FOR THE MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT TO EXTEND PORT FACILITIES TO THE SOVIET SOUTH ATLANTIC AND INDIAN OCEAN FISHING FLEETS. THE PRESS SPECULATE THAT THE PROBABLE NEXT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WOULD BE A JOINT SOVIET-MOZAMBIQUE FISH DISTRIBUTION ENTERPRISE, WHICH WOULD BE ESTABLISHED BY THE END OF THE YEAR. PRESS ALSO PREPARED THAT SINCE JULY 1976 A SOVIET BOAT HAS BEEN INVESTIGATING COMMERCIAL FISHING POSSIBILITIES.

4. COMMENT: SINCE PRESIDENT MACHEL'S TRIP TO THE SOVIET UNION IN MAY 1976 AND THE SIGNING OF THE MOZAMBIQUE-SOVIET FISHING ACCORD IN FEBRUARY 1976, THE PRESENCE OF SOVIET FISHING AND MILITARY VESSELS IN MOZAMBIQUE'S PORTS HAS BEEN INCREASING. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY CONTACTS, SOVIET FISHING VESSELS HAVE BEEN OPERATING OUT OF MOZAMBIQUE'S TWO LARGEST PORTS, MAPUTO AND BEIRA, FOR PAST THREE OR FOUR MONTHS. WHETHER THESE TRAWLERS (OR THE TWO TROPIC CLASS BOATS) HAVE BEEN OPERATING UNDER THE TERMS OF THIS AGREEMENT IS UNKNOWN, SINCE THE PRESS DID NOT INDICATE WHEN THE LATEST AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED.

5. SOVIET NAVAL VESSELS HAVE ALSO BEEN USING MOZAMBIQUE'S PORTS ON A REGULAR BASIS. SINCE JANUARY 1976, AT
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LEAST A HALF DOZEN SOVIET VESSELS HAVE CALLED AT THE PORT OF MAPUTO. THESE OR OTHER VESSELS HAVE CALLED AT BEIRA AND NACALA. TWO KRIVAK CLASS DESTROYERS AND ONE KRESTA II CLASS CRUISER SPENT NINE DAYS IN MAPUTO PORT LAST WEEK AND THIS. ALTHOUGH WE KNOW OF NO PUBLISHED SOVIET-MOZAMBIQUE AGREEMENT COVERING USE OF MOZAMBIQUE PORT FACILITIES BY SOVIET MILITARY SHIPS, MOZAMBIQUE PORT CALLS BY SOVIET MILITARY WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE GIVEN FRELIMO'S PRO-SOVIET POSTURE.
CARSON

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